

**Thomas Jefferson to Peter Charles L'Enfant, March 12, 1791, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital.  
Edited by Saul K. Padover.**

**Jefferson to L'Enfant**

*March 1791.*

JEFFERSON TO MAJOR L'ENFANT

*Sir,*

You are desired to proceed to Georgetown, where you will find Mr. Ellicot employed in making a survey and map of the Federal territory.<sup>11</sup> The special object of asking your aid is to have drawings of the particular grounds most likely to be approved for the site of the federal town and buildings. You will therefore be pleased to begin on the eastern branch, and proceed from thence upwards, laying down the hills, valleys, morasses, and waters between that, the Potomac, the Tyber, and the road leading from Georgetown to the eastern branch, and connecting the whole with certain fixed points of the map Mr. Ellicot is preparing. Some idea of the height of the hills above the base on which they stand, would be desirable. For necessary assistance and expenses, be pleased to apply to the Mayor of Georgetown, who is written to on this subject. I will beg the favor of you to mark to me your progress about twice a week, by letter . . .

[P. 221, WRITINGS OF WASHINGTON, III.]